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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/058,005	01/29/2002	Kenji Suzuki	100353-00096	3133

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EXAMINER

IM, JUNGHWA M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2811

DATE MAILED: 02/27/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/058,005

Applicant(s)

SUZUKI ET AL.

Examiner

Junghwa M. Im

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3 and 11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in-

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or

(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

Claims 1 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by Bassett (U.S. Pat. No. 6,242,814).

Regarding claim 1, Fig.7 of Bassett shows a semiconductor integrated circuit comprising:
pads (40's);

a first power supply I/O cell (10; a second I/O cell from the right) which is connected to a first pad of said pads (40; a second Vdd pad from the right), said first pad being provided corresponding to said first power supply I/O cell;

a wire line (a metal lines 1 and 2 for a bond pad site 40 in Fig. 4);

a second power supply I/O cell (10; a first I/O cell from the right) which is to a second pad of said pads (40; a first Vdd pad from the right) and is connected to said wire line to receive power from said first power supply I/O cell, said second pad being provided corresponding to said second power supply I/O cell and being different from said first pad (through locating in a different I/O cell);

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an internal cell (140, 150 in Fig.4); and

a power supply line (Vdd 50 in Fig. 3) which provides power supply to the internal cell wherein the first power supply I/O cell and the second power supply I/O cell are connected to the power supply line;

wherein said first pad is connected to at least one external pin (through a wire 210) and wherein said second pad is not connected to any of the at least one external pin (through not having any wire 210).

Note that Fig. 4 of Bassett shows that power is provided to an internal cell (especially 140) through a power supply line (Vdd 50 in Fig. 3). In addition, it is inherent that a power supply line is needed to the internal cell for the device to operate functionally. Note that power (Vdd) is supplied to a Vdd line (a wire) through a Vdd pad and as shown in Fig. 3, an internal cell (or a core portion of the device; or a logic cell) receives power through metal 1 and 2 which are connected to the Vdd pad. In detail, Bassett shows in Fig. 3 a plurality of Vdd pads 40's as a Vdd line 50 and Fig. 4 shows all Vdd pads are connected to a power supply of the active circuitry 140 through contact layer 130 (col. 3, lines 34-56). Furthermore, Bassett discloses that each of Vdd pads are connected and placed directly over the Vdd bus, thus both the used Vdd cell and unused Vdd cell are connected together through one of the bus line. And the bus is connected to a corresponding band pad site for the power supply, thus the unused Vdd cells receives power through the wire connected Vdd cell which is connected to the Vdd bus together with the unused Vdd cell.

Regarding claim 11, Fig.7 of Bassett shows a semiconductor integrated circuit comprising pads (40's), a first power supply I/O cell (40; a second Vdd from the right) which is

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connected by a wire (210) to an external pin through a corresponding pad of said pads, a second power supply I/O cell (40; a first Vdd from the right) which is not connected to an external pin (210) through a second pad, said second power supply I/O cell being connected to said first power supply cell via a wire line (metal 1 and 2; through a bus line; col. 3, lines 34-56), said second pad being provided corresponding to said second power supply I/O cell and being different from said first pad (through locating in a different I/O cell);

an internal cell (140, 150 in Fig.4); and

a power supply line (Vdd 50 in Fig. 3) which is connected to the first power supply I/O cell, the second power supply I/O cell and the internal cell through metal 1 and 2 in Fig. 3.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 3 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed on November 3, 2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. New rejections are made with modification only to accommodate the amendments made to the claims by the Applicant.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Junghwa M. Im whose telephone number is (571) 272-1655. The examiner can normally be reached on MON.-FRI. 8:30AM-5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eddie C Lee can be reached on (571) 272-1732. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

jmi



EDDIE LEE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800